

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Dauphinais, Jennifer [Jennifer.Dauphinais@quinnipiac.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 4:36 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** I am an ECA ALUMNI, 1994

**Importance:** High

I am an ECA alumni, Class of 1994 who is a current MAT Candidate for Elementary Education at Quinnipiac University. If it were not for my experience in the ECA magnet school, I am certain I would not have the confidence or motivation to pursue this degree or would have been ignited to become the life-long learner that I am today. The education I received at ECA has served as a model to carry into my own classroom, fostering the dreams, talents and interests of gifted and challenged students alike. As a youngster in the main stream education system, I often felt I did not fit into the "standard" curriculum or course work of my typical peers. Traveling from Cheshire to ECA each day was like a dream come true for me, a place where I belonged and was embraced for my unique abilities! I blossomed in this learning environment and made friends that I still have today because of it! I can also say I have grown into a successful artist and educator because of this experience. I am one example of many that knows the impact magnet schools have on our lives, and futures. I am so grateful to be able to say I had that chance, and want to do whatever it takes to allow that chance for today's students. What can I do to help?

I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

Jennifer Dauphinais  
ECA, Class of 1994- Theater  
MAT Candidate Quinnipiac University  
Bethany School District Intern  
Singer-Songwriter, Photographer, Poet